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THE ROUND TABLE

A NEW SOURCE OF COMIC EFFECT

The pleasant little comedy called "Grammatical Nomenclature," now being staged by various bodies of the profession, has progressed through a scene or two, and is going along merrily. The lack of harmony between the scenes is one of the sources of comedy effect. On second thought, it is the only one. And, indeed, those interested may be thankful even for that—in a subject generally supposed to be barren of dramatic possibilities. Reform in grammatical nomenclature is one thing in New York, and quite a different thing "Out of the Hurly-Burly"—that is, in New Jersey. In New York there are to be, hereafter, possessive and objective cases; in New Jersey, genitives and accusatives. In New York, children are to thrive on subjective complements; in New Jersey, on predicate adjectives. In New York, objective complements are to be a part of the daily school diet; in New Jersey, the factitive noun is to be regarded as the only Simon-pure food. And so on through an interesting list. Hereafter, little Stuyvesant Knickerbocker is to experience no bewilderment in his small noddle when the New York board of education adopts a new grammar; but woe unto him when he crosses into Jersey! It is the state line, not the coming of a new textbook or a new teacher, that in the future will determine whether there shall or shall not be a potential mood (or mode).

Perhaps a little sympathetic scoffing will help the cause along.

C. L. H.

To the Editor of the "English Journal":

We must always beware of generalities no matter how brightly they glitter—we English teachers, who are especially tempted to them.

Accordingly, as precise statement may be held the first requisite of intelligent discussion, I send the detailed scheme of the English course at St. Paul's School¹ as followed for several years past.

Very truly yours,

J. B. WHITE

CONCORD, N.H.

¹ Because of the current interest in the reorganization of secondary English it seems desirable to publish an example of the more conservative type of organization as a basis of comparison.—EDITOR.